30th January 1931]

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know how many days after the pronouncement of the judgment of the High Court were the prisoners released ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I am not in a position to say the exact period. It may have been one or two days. After the judgment of the High Court all prisoners imprisoned under that order were released."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know why Government have not cancelled that order of the District Magistrate ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The High Court itself has rescinded that order, and so there was no need for the Government to take action."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" As regards the other prisoners, is it necessary that Government should take action only when they appeal ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"There was only one prisoner in prison at the time of the pronouncement of the judgment of the High Court and he was released on receipt of that information."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Am I to understand that so far as the Government are concerned, that ban has not been set at naught ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" As I said, there is need for doing it."

Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI :—" Is it true that because the police were likely to commit breach of peace, the wearing of Gandhi cap was banned in Guntur ?" (Laughter.)

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not feel inclined to answer questions put in that key."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, the hon the Law Member said that there was no need to issue orders to release prisoners imprisoned under that order. Is it because that by the time the Government came to know of that decision of the High Court all the prisoners had been released ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" That is exactly what I was saying to my friend."

Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI :—" May I know whom the wearing of Gandhi cap was likely to offend ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I don't know."

Fines imposed on political prisoners.

* 258 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the total amount of fines inflicted on and realized from the political prisoners up to date?

A.—The Government have no information.

[30th January 1931

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Have Government any objection to call for the information ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR : —" We have called for it."

Mr. C. BASU DEV :—" Has the information since been received ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No; Sir."

Mr. C. BASU DEV :—" When do they expect to receive it ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I can't say."

Jails

Alleged remission granted to European and Anglo-Indian prisoners in the Madras Penitentiary.

*259 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Howie, the Superintendent of the Madras Penitentiary, granted remission to the European and Anglo-Indian convicts for periods ranging from 15 to 20 days although there was no recommendation from the Press Superintendent to the effect that those convicts had done extra work and deserved remission ;

(b) whether the Superintendent granted remission to a convict by name Breton ; if so, on what ground he did so ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that among these Europeans and Anglo-Indians who were granted remission there are some who were not actually working in the Press ;

(d) when the Press Superintendent had recommended remission to the Indian convicts, on what ground Mr. Howie did not sanction the same ; and

(e) whether the Indian convicts went on strike on the 16th, 17th and 18th of August for the above and similar other reasons ?

A.—(a) to (e) The Government have no information but have called for it.

Alleged tea party to European and Anglo-Indian convicts in the Madras Penitentiary.

*260 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) on what grounds Mr. Howie allowed the Toc'H Society to give the European and Anglo-Indian convicts in the Madras Penitentiary tea party in August or September 1930, and when the rules permit the use of confectionaries only from Spencer's, why he allowed hams, sandwiches and pork-pie to the convicts ; and

(b) on what grounds he refused to allow the Malayalee cooks to come into the jail and cook for the Malayalee convicts on Onam day as was being done for the last five years ?

A.—(a) & (b) The information has been called for.